

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131808  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RGHOUDEK:JWM  
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH  
ARA/CAR:DHENDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131808

FROM AF/W (HOUDEK)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, SL, JM

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FORMER SIERRA LEONE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL BERTHAN MACAULAY

REF: KINGSTON 2937

1. FACTS AS SET FORTH REFTEL ESSENTIALLY CORRECT CONCERN-  
ING MACAULAY DIFFICULTIES IN FREETOWN. TO BEST OF MY  
RECOLLECTION, HIS PROBLEMS WERE PURELY POLITICAL AND DID  
NOT RPT NOT INVOLVE CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR. MACAULAY AND  
PRESIDENT STEVENS HAVE SINCE RECONCILED. MACAULAY HAD  
PLEASANT MEETING WITH STEVENS DURING HIS VISIT TO KINGSTON  
FOR THE 1975 COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. HE ROUTINELY PAYS  
COURTESY CALL ON STEVENS WHEN VISITING FREETOWN. MACAULAY  
STILL DOES LEGAL WORK IN ENGLISH SPEAKING WEST AFRICA AND  
GETS BACK TO FREETOWN AT LEAST ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS  
EITHER ON BUSINESS OR TO VISIT FAMILY. HE, HOWEVER, HAS  
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MADE A CLEAN BREAK WITH SIERRA LEONE, HAVING SOLD HOMES  
AND PROPERTY, AND HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF RETURNING  
THERE TO LIVE.

2. MACAULAY HAS A WELL DESERVED REPUTATION FOR COURAGE.  
HE FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ANY PERSON, WHETHER RICH OR POOR  
OR ASSOCIATED WITH AN UNPOPULAR MOVEMENT, HAS THE RIGHT

TO THE BEST POSSIBLE LEGAL DEFENSE. WITH THAT ADMIRABLE  
ATTITUDE HE HAS FOUND HIMSELF INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF  
CONTROVERSIAL CRIMINAL AND POLITICAL CASES. HE HAS  
REPRESENTED FORMER P.M. BUSIA'S INTERESTS IN GHANA, HAD  
STEVENS AS A CLIENT WHEN HE WAS IN OPPOSITION, DEFENDED  
SEVERAL SLPP MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AGAINST MURDER CHARGES  
IN 1972-73, AND HAS SERVED AS THE COURT APPOINTED DEFENDER  
IN A NUMBER OF HIGHLY CHARGED CRIMINAL CASES IN JAMAICA.  
I PERSONALLY CONSIDER BERTHAN MACAULAY TO BE AN ATTORNEY  
OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY, HONESTY, AND ABILITY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FORMER SIERRA LEONE ATTORNEY GENERAL BERTHAN MACAULAY  
**TAGS:** PINR, SL, JM, (MACAULAY, BERTHAN)  
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**Type:** TE  
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